

# The Woman's Page of the Times-Dispatch

## What the Virginia Women Have Been Doing This Winter

There is a great deal of talk about the woman in the home. She is the supreme type of the hour. Too much cannot be said in her praise.

The woman in the home is an admirable figure. Nobody can gainsay or wishes to gainsay the fact. But sometimes woman's work lies outside of the home as well as inside of it, and this winter Virginia women have fulfilled their duties, whatever the nature of these duties, private or public, in an equally creditable manner. They have showed themselves gracious, charming and hospitable in their drawing rooms. They have proven themselves intelligent, helpful and practical in their apprehension of matters affecting the public welfare, and when their help has been asked, they have given it quietly and yet effectively. In their patriotic organizations they have been busy with interests that have much more than a State-wide effect.

The record of their social triumphs and of the entertainments attendant upon the close of a brilliant gubernatorial administration and the inauguration of another have been duly set down to their credit in the memories of the community and in daily columns, where those who run may read. Work otherwise accomplished is not so well known or so justly estimated.

That of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who are constantly devising programs and amusements for the pleasure of the veterans in gray at Lee Camp home, who are even now busy over plans for keeping their annual memorial day, who are actively interested in the educational work of the mountain missions, and who are making history for future generations in the Confederate Museum of this city.

That of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Society of Colonial Dames in Virginia, who are furnishing inspiration to the young, by the zeal with which they have engaged in the task of restoring Virginia's mighty past and of placing it as an object lesson before the eyes of the American nation.

That of the women in their club work, educational work, league work and district nursing work, their Audubon Society work and their humanitarian work, which takes them into the broader world that lies outside of their sphere of individual interest and effort in the home.

That of Woman's Club in Richmond, always a centre of intellectual and artistic as well as of social life, with standards maintained there representing whatever is highest, and with its literary and musical entertainments, its lectures, its class work, affording an outlet for the activities and a resource to the demands of woman's natural tastes and tendencies.

That of the sisterhood of women in general, meeting on the broad plane of common effort in furtherance of whatever helps and advantages other women, wherever they work and whatever the nature of their work may be, representing a movement that is as significant as it is important, a movement that has led women this winter into opposition against legislation which tended to set aside precautions taken for the health of the city and into opposition to bills introduced to lengthen the daily hours of labor for women and children, which has induced women to strive for legislative endorsement to a measure providing a state college for other women, to support a teachers' pension bill, a bill for the protection of birds and a bill for the preservation of trees in the Capitol Square, and for the setting out of young trees and ornamental shrubbery wherever needed.

These are only a few of the many measures that have engaged the interest and the time of women of earnest purpose, endeavoring to do their part in the uplift of humanity. The result of what has been done will be summed up in the future. For the present one fact arresting attention has been demonstrated. This fact is that a woman may be womanly without being absolutely and unvaryingly a home keeper and a home worker.

VIRGINIA WESTOVER.



*John Toque.*

## RARER THAN ROSE, KNOWING HER MIND

Rarer than the blue rose of the poet and the idealist is the woman who knows her own mind. In other words, the woman whose conversation and actions are the result of settled purpose and conviction, subordinating personal impulse to practical requirements and those imposed by the necessities of self-restraint and prudence. All women are inclined to inconsequence. Their quick sensibilities and ready sympathies stand in the way of their logical development and render them often vacillating and uncertain, when they should be firm and decided.

The effect upon the world at large of such weaknesses of character is sometimes amusing, but more often exasperating to a masculine mind, always on the alert to discover some ground for just criticism against the weaker sex.

"Miss Nellie," said stupid John to a dainty maiden, looking at him with laughing eyes and pouting lips, "Miss Nellie, you haven't given me my answer yet."

"How can I?" queried Nellie. "When I don't know what the answer is to be."

"Then," declared John firmly, "there's nothing more for me to say, except good-by. If I am going to be kept dangling on a string with a dozen other men, I had better go and end the matter as far as I am concerned, for once and all. I am sorry to have given you the trouble, but that's over now," and John rose and grasped his hat with the air of a man to whom an ultimate decision had come as a relief.

"But," gasped Miss Nellie, "what do you mean and where are you going?"

John shook his head sadly. "I have had an offer to join a friend of mine in the Philippines. I had better go, for considering his proposition and came to you. I shall wire him to-night and sail with him from San Francisco next week."

Nellie's eyes filled with tears and she looked appealingly at John. "I do not want you to go," she said tremulously. "Why do you wish to go? You have everything to make you happy here."

"No," John declared, "I haven't you. You have made me miserable long enough. I can't stand your not knowing your mind in regard to marrying me, so there's nothing for me but a new place and a distant one. I hope life will bring you happiness, and that you will always remember me as true to you. Unfortunately for me, I know my mind too well to ever change. Good-by."

But Nellie, brought face to face with the prospect of accepting John or giving him up, found her mind and, instead of responding to his good-by, granted him the decision he had long and vainly pressed for. It was some years after their marriage before John found the courage to confess that the fiction of the Philippines had been invented by him in desperation, with the intention of bringing about just the happiness for him and Nellie which it eventually conferred.

"But John," exclaimed his wife, "how could you be so cruel as to tell me what you knew would grieve me?" "Ah," said John, with an air of wisdom, "I had to wound to heal, my dear. But for that story of my imagination you might have remained until to-day without knowing your mind. I was just obliged to make it up for you."

CONSTANCIA.

### The New Flat Hat.

Women clamor for something new, and as all millinery models are more or less extreme there are some feminine heads that are not fittingly arrayed in the accepted shapes.

Paris has come to the rescue and aid of those who want a change of headgear. The new hat is a large flat shape unrelieved by any perceptible crown. Whatever crown there is enabling a sure position on the curls under it.

Its unbroken surface has secured the name of the "plateau" hat for our latest. When developed in black panne it is most becoming to women who have soft features and who carry well a long, sweeping line at the forehead.

Fur, as a band, is used to define a crown. At one side a bunch of handsome ostrich plumes towers and produces the effect of height.

Soft satins which are so woven that a fugitive coloring is the main feature are the favorites for evening cloaks.

There is a new and beautiful decoration used on one of these satin models just over from Paris. It is a long panel embroidered with soutache, it reaches from the collar down to the lower edge of the cloak. Wide bands edge the loose sleeves, which follow the line of fashion and are cut in one piece with the rest of the gown.

The lower edge of the wrap is draped and caught under the broad band of the panel.

A striking, high collar of embroidery is a fitting top for the coat, which is buttoned by black velvet disks and cord.

NEW IDEAS IN TUNICS.

There are some simple little frocks of ivory-white satin, or even of soft muslin, that are claiming attention these days, for they form backgrounds for new ideas in tunics.

They are made with perfectly plain bodice and skirt, the lower edge of the latter finished with two or three flounces.

Over this foundation the separate tunic is slipped. It is of chiffon, embroidered gauze, silk net or heavy tulle, and is belted in at the waist line. The low neck, sleeve line and border are edged with a band of soft satin that matches the shade of the tunic.

Frequently these tunics are elaborately decorated with embroidery or buttons. They are easily made, and give a distinctly new touch to the gown for afternoon or evening.

DARNING CASE.

A convenient case for two spools of darning cotton—a black and a white—is made of two similar silk-covered pasteboards. They are oval in shape, and so planned as to length that they will fully cover the two balls of cotton. They are covered with figured silk and faced with plain silk, the two qualities being overlaid together along their edges.

Within these two covered oblongs there are placed the two spools. Through their openings there are passed ribbons, which are then threaded through holes punched in the cardboard.

These will hold the spools of cotton firmly in place after the ends of the ribbons are sewed securely to the figured silk and finished with rosettes on the outside of the oblongs.

## Women Should Practice Justice in Judgment

Every woman should be careful when she passes judgment on others to at least speak with comprehension and authority.

By comprehension is broadly meant the seldom exercised power of putting one's self in the place of the person judged, and of examining into actions from the motive power of temperamental, environmental, and educational.

Authoritative speech must depend, of course, on absolute knowledge of facts as well as conditions.

A woman is often exhorted to be charitable in forming her opinions and passing her sentences. She had far better be just, charitable attitude presupposes a superior plane, a looking down from this plane of the judge on the judged, and of at once erecting a wall of separation which no amount of unwelcome patronage can level.

Justice even up matters. A woman who is just is too conscious of her own lack of right, in so far as stone-throwing is concerned, to experience the faintest desire to practice it on any member of her sex. If she is strong where another is weak, she restores the balance by the offset of a corresponding gain, where there is a corresponding lack.

If she has advantages in the line of education or wealth or position, she remembers the greater responsibilities and demands made by these in her own case, and, reversing environment, she looks through the eyes of the one less fortunate, placed and decides what should be the reasonable outcome of contrasting conditions.

The temperament of the woman criticized may be the moving cause of conduct that, on the surface, seems inexcusable. Temperament counts for a great deal in life, and accounts for a great deal more. If there is one thing more than another that a woman should take note of in her final summing up of judgment, it is temperament.

Difference of age is another important factor. The woman who has advantage point of maturity and experience should never forget the rebellious impulses of youth and its quick tendencies. Against these she should not array the calming of passions by the inevitable passage of time and the wisdom gained by continuous exercise of self-control. Bridging inequalities in years by sympathy, she should modify her views and ideas by allowance

for the emotional and sentimental exuberance of those with whom life is as yet in its early morning.

Justice is represented as holding the balance of the universe in her hands. She should serve as an inspiration to every woman who desires to attain to the best and to represent in herself what is best in the eyes of her sister women.

MARY ST. IVES.

### Suggestion of Simplicity.

It is a relief to find that among the new evening frocks there is a suggestion of simplicity. Of course, the elegance of the elaborate embroideries and combinations of materials is tempting, but invariably expensive, and therefore beyond the reach of those who must consider the question of ways and means.

Soft satin seems to be an ideal material for simple evening gowns. One beautiful designed model relies almost entirely upon folds to gain a charming effect. The bodice is, of course, low-necked, but it is pointed in cut, this shape being secured by the crossed folds.

The sleeves are of draped folds of silk, just to relieve any emphasis of this idea, wide bretelles of satin, braided with narrow soutache, in a large, effective design, pass from the irregular waist line over the shoulders. The waist line is secured by a pointed skirt line at the top, which is ornamented with a running design of braid, and gives just the right amount of decoration for this frock.

Simplicity is certainly a safe side on which to err. There is always a quiet satisfaction in the recognition that a simple gown worn with grace and "an air" is appropriate on any occasion, whereas over-ornamentation frequently means discomfiture on the part of the wearer.

### Cloth-of-Gold.

With the continuance of the fashion for metallic weaves and fancies there is a liberal showing of that delicate fabric known as cloth-of-gold. In its several variations it takes on a silver shimmer or a rich bronze tone, and in each of these three general colors or notes it drifts into blues, lavenders, greens and rosy pinks, which make it a material suited to many purposes.

## Individuality in Dress

"Don't be a slave to fashion and do dress in becoming clothes." This from a fashion expert, although hers is said to be the business of exploiting all that is "late," no matter what its value. The accusation, for such it is, is scarcely a just one. Is it not highly likely that the expert is a discriminating eye? And can it not be imagined that among such multitudinous fashions she marks the worthy at a glance? She does not thrust them all forth with the stamp of her approval. She as frequently condemns.

The modistes make fashions and they try them out upon a Parisian public, made up partly of Americans. The accepted are spread abroad for the trade, but it is whispered that the rejected go somewhere, and we are supposed to have been treated to those as well as to the choicest.

Fashions that deform are not to be tolerated after the shiploads of rejected hats dumped down upon us last spring and summer.

If surmises were correct as to their origin, it is hardly like women will again make themselves ridiculous. There is dissatisfaction even now in foreign capitals because of the decrepit attitude produced by the tied-in draperies, and neither the large waist, the sloping shoulder nor the pulled-in chest has met with approval.

There is art in knowing when to wear the primer. It was never for a moment put forth as a model for the cloth costume, although some dress-makers have tortured their patrons into it for street wear, and supposedly knowing women have accepted in a garment so defying grace and motion that they would not have been able to save their own lives had an accident demanded haste.

The so-called narrow chest and flat bust fashions are those providing no fullness of pleats or gathers around the waist, they belong undeniably to the perfect figure, and unhappy is the slender woman should she attempt them.

### Puffs Used This Spring.

Puffed material appears as trimming on many of the best models in varying fabric and for different occasions. The puff is distinctly new as a tunic edge, and those of chiffon lend themselves exceptionally well to this decoration.

White dresses of mull and batiste exploit the puff once more. It appears between rows of lace insertion. It edges the fichu and the chemise and heads the lace flounce of the skirt.

## Advice When Most Needed Is Often Least Heeded

In one of the many flings made by Addison against women he says that a woman seldom asks advice before she has bought her wedding clothes. His jibe might be interpreted in two ways, but what he had really in mind was that a woman was too fond of following the beat of her individual inclination to take counsel of any one in a matter so dear to her heart, until having fully committed herself she might make an adroit appeal by way of feminine finesse.

Under any circumstances, the woman who avoids asking advice relies on what judgment she has to guide her, and when she makes a mistake, profits by her experience, only follows out the law of human nature. Advice is seldom welcome. It may be listened to with an air of attention or respect, but it is usually dismissed from the mind as soon as it is uttered. Honest women seldom beg for it, and those who profess to be in greatest need of the opinions of others are nearly always the ones who have the least use for them. The case with which advice can be given is in exact proportion to the unwillingness with which it is received.

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Wisdom is shown in never giving advice unasked and in being slow to respond even after an insistent request has been made. So often gratuitous counsel is put aside with a contemptuous retort or a disdainful shrug, and thereby hurt feeling is aroused unnecessarily, that the giving of this special provocation should be carefully and constantly avoided. Advice when most needed is apt to be least heeded by women as well as by men. It is a difficult thing to do, to stand aside and see a friend pursuing a course of action that in the mind of another is certainly liable to bring unhappiness, and yet a dreaded crisis is precipitated by advice that is meant for good, but that, in the revolt it

brings about, has the opposite effect from what was intended.

An old Latin writer says that an angry man looks upon advice as a crime. An angry woman certainly does, and when it is put in her way she is apt to make short shrift of it in her impatience. Anger causes both men and women to be unreasonable, and advice is something which neither sex will brook as a salve to heated feeling. There are some subjects upon which no woman will be advised. One might talk to a certain class of women all day, be sweetly smiled at, effusively thanked, and then be forced to realize how much advice not asked for is undervalued.

### A PASSERBY.

### Artificial Boutonnieres.

The French mode of wearing artificial flowers on the street costume has for months been knocking at our doors, and at last has been accepted with a rush.

American women have been prejudiced against the cloth or silk gardenia or dahlia, though why we cannot explain to the astonished Parisians. "Why, madame, you wear no real flowers on your hats," said one emphatic Frenchman, "yet you will not bring the exquisite touch of spring down to your coat!" And when we consider what that means it gives us an appreciation of the possibilities of the boutonniere.

It will not wither and gives just a suggestion of relieving color below the face.

Camellias streaked with pink, white gardenias surrounded with waxy leaves, or violets that are scented in their never-fading glory are the most favored. Of course, in the selection of these flowers it is cheaper to pay a high price, which sounds paradoxical. They last a longer time and look much more like the real thing. The coloring is always better in the more expensive varieties, and though deception should not be encouraged in dress, there is an attractive freshness of the higher priced flowers that is second only to the real thing.